

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /134 W
-----020061 212205Z /75

R 212143Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2627
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02986

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, AR, BR, CO, CS, UY, VE
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNSYG TO ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND
URUGUAY

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 2312, B) BUENOS AIRES 5595
1. IN THE ABSENCE FOR US HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
REP MEZVINSKY, POLMIN AND MISOFF CALLED ON UN UNDER-
SECRETARY GENERAL BUFFUM JULY 20 TO DISCUSS VISIT OF
UNSYG WALDHEIM TO ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY
AMONG OTHER MATTERS. CONVERSATION UNFORTUNATELY TOOK
PLACE BEFORE ARRIVAL OF REF B.

2. BUFFUM INDICATED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS
OF THE INVITATIONS FROM URUGUAY AND BRAZIL WERE NOT
ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED WHEN THE INVITATIONS WERE
ACCEPTED. THE SYG AND HIS STAFF ARE FULLY FOCUSED
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ON THIS ASPECT OF THE TRIP NOW, HOWEVER, AND HE
HAS ASKED HIS STAFF TO BRIEF HIM THOROUGHLY ON THE
CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES HE
WILL VISIT. HE HAS ESPECIALLY ASKED FOR INFORMATION
ON THE STATE OF PLAY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS HE
WILL BE VISITING AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR) IN PARTICULAR, AND THE OAS

IN GENERAL. BUFFUM COMMENTED THAT THE SYG IS CURRENTLY MUCH CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING AND DEEPENING RELATIONS WITH THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND WILL NO DOUBT GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR WORK WHILE IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. BUFFUM SAID THEY HAVE RECOMMENDED TO THE SYG THAT HE ALSO VISIT SOME LATIN AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES TO "BALANCE THE TRIP" AND NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF VISITING ONLY MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS. HIS STAFF HAS SUGGESTED VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA; MISOFF SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF COLOMBIA (IN ACCORDANCE WITH TELECON WITH DEPUTY ASST SECY ZIMMERMAN JULY 19). A VISIT TO SAN JOSE WOULD GIVE SYG AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ADMIRATION FOR RECENT STEPS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF AMERICAN CONVENTION, BUFFUM NOTED.

4. BUFFUM COMMENTED THAT THE SYG WAS NOT LIKELY TO RAISE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE PUBLICLY, BUT HE NO DOUBT WOULD BROACH IT PRIVATELY. BUFFUM'S STAFF HAS ASKED US FOR ALL THE RECENT MATERIAL WE CAN PROVIDE, AND TO DATE WE HAVE GIVEN HIS OFFICE: 1) AMBASSADOR MCGEE'S JANUARY 31 STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY US WAS OPPOSED TO HOLDING OAS GA IN MONTEVIDEO, 2) THE LATEST REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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ON URUGUAY, AND 3) THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE LAST OAS/GA ON URUGUAY. FURTHERMORE, WE INTEND TO SUGGEST THAT THE SYG INVITE SOME OFFICIAL OR STAFF MEMBER OF THE IACHR TO COME TO NEW YORK TO BRIEF HIM, AS THIS WOULD TAKE THE US OUT OF THE ROLE OF MIDDLE-MAN, TEND TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, AND STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THE OAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WALDHEIM'S CURRENT INTEREST.

5. SYG'S STAFF ARE PREPARING BRIEFING PAPERS FOR HIM ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY, INCLUDING AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF MISSING PERSONS IN ARGENTINA. THEY WILL RECOMMEND THAT HE DELIVER THIS LIST TO THE GOA WITH A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, ACTING WITHIN HIS "GOOD OFFICES" AND CONFIDENTIAL ROLE.

6. AT THIS MOMENT BUFFUM'S OFFICE DOES NOT KNOW THE DATES OF THE PROPOSED VISIT TO BRAZIL AND CAN CONFIRM ONLY THAT HE WILL BE IN ARGENTINA ON AUGUST 30, AND THEN GO TO URUGUAY AUGUST 29 OR 30. WE SHOULD HAVE MORE INFORMATION MONDAY WHEN THE SYG RETURNS FROM AFRICA.

7. USUN CONCURS WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED
IN REFTELS, AND ASKS EMBASSIES MONTEVIDEO, BUENOS
AIRES AND BRASILIA IF THEY HAVE ANY PARTICULAR VIEWS
OR INFORMATION THEY WOULD LIKE US TO CONVEY TO
BUFFUM IN PREPARATION FOR THE SYG'S TRIP. BUFFUM
IS PROBABLY RIGHT THAT THE SYG WILL NOT FEEL ABLE TO
MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ALLUDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS,
BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE AS HELPFUL TO BUFFUM AS
WE CAN IN ARMING THE SYG FOR HIS PRIVATE CONVERSA-
TIONS AND PUTTING HIM ON BALANCE TO AVOID GIVING ANY

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02986

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REGIMES IN POWER.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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